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# • nellie castan gallery

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## PRESS RELEASE

### *kate shaw: mirror matter*

4–28 October 2007

*'Shaw began her painting career by refusing traditional painting. Using a spray gun rather than a brush, her early work comprised images of urban and interior architectural environments with a leaning towards the psychedelic. But after discovering some bizarre land-forms while travelling through Central Australia (2005)<sup>1</sup> she sought a new way of working, and soon developed the technique for producing images out of what she calls 'paint-pours'<sup>2</sup>. These stimulate her imagination to find the suggestive forms from which her extraordinary visions and vistas are produced.*



*When experimenting, Shaw treats paint like a medium of the unconscious; select colours are poured and prompted to flow across the paper's surface with little control. Like one of the earliest renegade painters, Max Ernst<sup>3</sup>, whose frottages were derived out of the patterns in a timber floor eg. *The Grey Forest* 1926 and *Petrified City* 1937, Shaw's accidental and random acts are transformed into her own unique imagery through a process of 'looking' – as done in a Rorschach test (alluded to in her mirrored images).*

*In allowing the medium of paint to create its own form, Shaw has become an expert in the exploitation of chance effects to express the hidden content of the paint itself whence new and hidden worlds are formed.<sup>4</sup>*

Kate Shaw completed a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) Honours at RMIT University in Melbourne in 1994 before completing a Diploma of Museum Studies at Deakin University. In 2006 Shaw was involved in a number of group exhibitions both in Australia and abroad, including FIAC at the Grand Palais and the Louvre Paris, the Sustainable Living Festival at the BMW Edge at Federation Square, Melbourne. She has held several solo exhibitions in Australian and New York at Luxe Gallery. She was a finalist for the ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award in 2006 and 2007 and a finalist in the Robert Jack's Drawing Prize in 2005. This is Kate's first solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery, following a very successful first solo exhibition at Sullivan + Strumpf earlier this year.

for images and full biography please contact [olivia@nelliecastangallery.com](mailto:olivia@nelliecastangallery.com)

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level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141

**opening: 6 – 8pm thursday 4 october**

exhibition ends: sunday 28 october

hrs: tuesday to sunday 12–5pm t: 03 9804 736

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1. interview with the author, April 2007

2. *ibid.*

3. one of the founders of the Dadaist group in Cologne, Germany

4. Kirsten Rann, *Mirror Matter*, exhibition essay (October, 2007)